



Washington University in St. Louis

Mark S. Wrighton
Chancellor

August 22, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,
Government Information, and International Security
United States Senate
c/o Ms. Anna Shopen
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3604

Via Fax: 202-228-3796

Dear Chairman Coburn:

Thank you for your July 26th letter. I share your enthusiasm for the life-changing innovations and discoveries that result from federally-sponsored research, and your commitment to the wise expenditure of taxpayer dollars for this research.

In fiscal year 2005, Washington University in St. Louis received a total of \$432.8 million in research funding from the federal government. The National Institutes of Health was the University's largest federal sponsor (awarding \$399.6 million of the \$432.8 million total in FY05), but support also came from numerous other federal agencies. I am proud that all of this funding was awarded based on merit through the competitive peer review processes at the respective agencies.

Washington University subscribes to the belief that a critical ingredient in the success of America's national research program is that federal funds for university-based research are best awarded through peer review. Peer review allocates funding based on the merit of competing research proposals, and the University has long held that merit-reviewed competition is the best method our country has identified for ensuring the quality and cost-effectiveness of federally-sponsored research.

Virtually all of Washington University's federal research funding is awarded by peer review. The University does not seek, nor do we generally accept, special congressional appropriations (earmarked funds). The University does not engage lobbyists to assist in identifying or pursue earmarked funds.

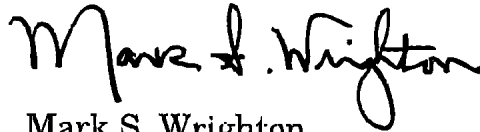
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The last earmark the University accepted was an EPA project in FY 2000 for \$300,000 (National Decentralized Water Resources Capacity Development Project). The University did not participate in the development of this project nor did we request funding for it. Indeed, the EPA approached the University and requested that we administer the grant for them.

If you have additional questions, please contact me. The University's Vice Chancellor for Government and Community Relations, Pam Lokken, can also assist you (314-935-5752).

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Mark S. Wrighton

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